

and the step that a majority of Senators took today, I think, will help make those gears work just a little bit better.

Thanks very much, everybody. And now Josh will answer all your questions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:59 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to

Rep. Melvin L. Watt, in his capacity as Director-designate of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; former President George W. Bush; Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr.; Judge-designates Patricia A. Millett, Cornelia T.L. “Nina” Pillard, and Robert L. Wilkins, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; and Principal Deputy Press Secretary Joshua R. Earnest.

## Remarks at an Event Celebrating the ConnectED Initiative’s Champions of Change *November 21, 2013*

Well, hello, everybody. Have a seat, have a seat. And thank you, Misa, for the introduction and, more importantly, what you are doing in the classroom every single day, which is making such a big difference. And I want to welcome all of you who are here. This is one of my favorite events we do periodically. It gives me an opportunity to say thanks and recognize people who are making extraordinary contributions in their local communities. And we’re learning from you, seeing what works, seeing what has an impact.

We call them Champions of Change: people who have done some innovative work that, hopefully, can be replicated in other parts of the country once they have good models that are having success. And today we are honoring 10 educators who use technology to support one of our country’s top priorities, and that’s preparing our kids and our workers for the competition that they’re going to face in a 21st-century global economy.

In an age when the world’s information is just a click away, we’ve got to bring our schools and our libraries into the 21st century. That’s why 5 months ago I launched an initiative that we’re calling ConnectED to bring high-speed Internet to 99 percent of American students over the next 5 years. And this is going to be a top priority for me. It’s going to take some hard work across my administration, but I’m committed to getting it done.

Because this is not just about wiring schools, it’s about changing students’ lives. It’s about

using technology to give students a chance to learn at their own pace, whether they’re catching up on a subject or moving ahead to the next level. It’s about giving teachers a better data set so they can see exactly what’s working and what isn’t for particular students. It’s about unleashing a new market for educational devices and apps that will create jobs and spur innovation.

And it’s about supporting outstanding, innovative educators like our Champions for Change. Because of their work in North Dakota, young people with autism are using educational apps to discover abilities that they didn’t even know that they had. In Colorado, preschoolers have now obtained access to a digital discovery center that helps them to get a great education from the earliest age. In Georgia, students at an afterschool technology club are learning skills that are going to help them succeed in college and throughout their careers. And today’s Champions of Change are helping to give our students what every parent wants for their child: the chance to go as far as their talents and hard work will take them.

So to all of our Champions for Change, we want to thank you for your extraordinary efforts. As long as I’m President, I’m going to keep working not only to support the great work that educators and librarians are doing across the country, but more fundamentally, to make sure that young people are getting every opportunity that they deserve to thrive and succeed in this modern economy. And I see

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some young people here, and they look like they're doing pretty good. [*Laughter*] Although, they may be bored by me making too long a speech. [*Laughter*]

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the South Court Auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Misa Gonzales, English teacher, Desert View High School in Tucson, AZ.

## Statement on Signing the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act

*November 21, 2013*

Earlier today I signed into law the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that allows scientists to carry out research into organ donations from one person with HIV to another. For decades, these organ transplants have been illegal. It was even illegal to study whether they could be safe and effective. But as our understanding of HIV and effective treatments have grown, that policy has become outdated. The potential for successful organ transplants between people living with HIV has become more of a possibility. The HOPE Act lifts the research ban, and

in time, it could lead to live-saving organ donations for people living with HIV while ensuring the safety of the organ transplant process and strengthening the national supply of organs for all who need them.

Improving care for people living with HIV is critical to fighting the epidemic, and it's a key goal of my National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The HOPE Act marks an important step in the right direction, and I thank Congress for their action.

NOTE: S. 330, approved November 21, was assigned Public Law No. 113–51.

## Statement on the Upcoming State Visit of President François Hollande of France

*November 22, 2013*

Michelle and I look forward to welcoming President Hollande and Valérie Trierweiler on a state visit to the United States, to include a state dinner at the White House on February 11, 2014. The United States and France are close friends and allies, including through NATO, and our countries have worked together to support democracy, liberty, and

freedom at home and abroad for more than two centuries. During the visit, we will discuss opportunities to further strengthen the U.S.-France security and economic partnership.

NOTE: The statement referred to Valérie Trierweiler, partner of President Hollande.

## Joint Statement by President Obama and King Mohammed VI of Morocco

*November 22, 2013*

In their meeting today at the White House, President Obama and His Majesty King Mohammed VI reaffirmed the strong and mutually beneficial partnership and strategic alliance between the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco. The two leaders stressed that this important visit provides an opportunity to map out

a new and ambitious plan for the strategic partnership and pledged to advance our shared priorities of a secure, stable, and prosperous Maghreb, Africa, and Middle East. The two leaders also emphasized our shared values, mutual trust, common interests, and strong friendship, as reflected throughout our partnership.